

## ITEMS.

## DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST CHINA.

We extract the following from the Waterford Chronicle of March 14th, received by the William, from St. Blas.

The Governor General of India has, in the name of the British government, declared war against China. His Lordship has advertised for 40,000 tons of shipping, for the transport of the troops to China, 14,000 of which were to be supplied by Calcutta, and the rest by Madras and Bombay. The expedition was to rendezvous at and sail from Calcutta. Seven regiments quartered in this last Presidency had been ordered to prepare for embarkation, and the whole expedition was to consist of 16,000 men. Its destination was not known but it was deemed probable that it would be directed against Canton, or some other point on the coast, of which forcible possession would be kept until the Chinese government should be brought to reason.

The last accounts from Canton are dated Dec. 3th. The Emperor had addressed to Governor Lin, a decree prohibiting the importation of all British goods, and the trade with China was consequently at an end.

The Americans continue to pursue their trade unmolested, and their ships were arriving and departing as usual.—*Times*.

**FIRE.** We learn from one of the passengers in the barque Columbia, that Fort Langley one of the depots of the H. H. B. Company, in the Straits of Juan de Fuca, has been destroyed by fire, and a large quantity of produce consumed. The fire communicated from the blacksmith's shop in the night, and the occupants escaped only with their lives. Loss estimated at about \$20,000.

Le Pylade sailed on Tuesday, much to the regret of those who had the pleasure of acquaintance with the officers. His Majesty and suite with the Governor and a large number of the residents, accompanied them some distance outside of the reef, and after the customary exchange of salutes, returned in the schooner Paalua. The officers expressed themselves particularly pleased with their reception here, and the hospitality with which they were treated.

The intelligence received by the Clementine of an eruption of the volcano on Hawaii, as stated last week, produced some excitement in our village, which it is hoped, will be of advantage to the cause of science. On the return of the Clementine to Hawaii, several young gentlemen formed a party for the purpose of visiting the wonderful place; among whom were one of the scientific corps attached to the United States Exploring Squadron, and the Editor of the Polynesian, from whose pen in the course of two or three weeks, we confidently expect a particular account of all that has happened.

Meanwhile the public may be happy to hear that the editor—ever provident—has an abundance of copy in the hands of the printer, and secured the services of an able reporter who may be depended on for all important items of news.

**THE MISSIONARY HOUSE IN PEMBERTON SQUARE.** We are indebted to the Missionary Herald for the following description of this building: The cost of the ground was \$8,500; and of the building and fixtures about \$14,500, making the whole cost about \$23,000. This cost has been defrayed out of the permanent funds of the Board; funds which were given on the express condition that the interest only should be expended. The Board have therefore only invested these funds in a building, instead of holding them in Bank stock. They were formerly obliged to use the interest of this money in paying rent. The Missionary House

stands in Pemberton square. It is 31 feet by 50, exclusive of two rooms extending, in the rear, from the basement, each ten and a half feet by about forty. The apartments on the main floor are occupied by the Treasurer, and by the Secretary having charge of domestic correspondence. On the second floor are the office of the Secretary of foreign correspondence, and an apartment occupied as a depository for letters, periodicals, small packages, &c., which are to be forwarded to the missionaries. These are arranged in separate boxes according to their destination. In the same room all letters written in the Secretary's department are copied by a press. Two other departments on the same floor are occupied by the Secretary of the Indian Missions, who also edits the Missionary Herald. Here are deposited the magazines received in exchange of the Herald, or purchased for the use of the Board. In the rooms of the Treasurer and Secretaries, cases are provided, in which all letters and documents received from the missionaries are preserved to be finally bound, with full indexes for reference. More than 100 volumes have been already bound. In like manner copies of letters written by the various officers are preserved. The number of sheets of manuscript received from the missionaries beyond sea, during the past year, is 1369. From the Indian missions 217. Letters received in the course of the domestic correspondence amount, in the year, to about 1200. On the third floor is a room containing the Library of the Board. This now consists of about 1,800 volumes which are, 1. Periodicals: 2 Histories, geographies, books of travels, statistics, &c., to be used in obtaining information respecting different parts of the world; 3. Miscellaneous books bequeathed by the late Mr. Evarts, formerly one of the secretaries. In the Library room are held the weekly meetings of the Prudential Committee. All the proceedings of this committee are carefully recorded. In the rear of the Library room is the cabinet, 16 feet by 31. Here are deposited articles of curiosity sent home by the missionaries; such as pagan idols, implements, dresses, armor, &c., and specimens illustrating the natural history and productions of different countries. On the upper floor are three rooms under the roof, used for storing files of pamphlets. In the basement of the building are accommodations for arranging, packing, and storing articles which are to be shipped for the missionary stations. There are often from twenty to fifty tons, by measurement, of packages for shipment. Under the whole of the main building there is a cellar for storing boxes, &c. The building is well furnished with fire proof apartments for the safe keeping of records.—*Boston Evening Transcript*.

**CHEERYBLE BROTHERS.**—This firm, which has been so worthily portrayed by the gifted author of "Nicholas Nickleby," is said to have really existed, but under another name—and not to have been merely the offspring of a fertile imagination. The following anecdote respecting these noble minded originals, is taken from the Manchester (Eng.) *Times*.

"The elder brother of this house of merchant-princes amply revenged himself upon a libeller who had made himself merry with the peculiarities of the amiable fraternity. This man published a pamphlet, in which one of the brothers (D.) was designated as "Billy Button," and represented as talking largely of their foreign trade, having travelers who regularly visited Chowbent, Bullock Smithy, and other foreign parts. Some "kind friend" had told W. of this pamphlet, and W. had said that the man would live to repent of its publication. This saying was "kindly" conveyed to the libeller, who said

that he should disappoint them, for he should take care never to be in their debt. But the man in business does not always know who shall be his creditor. The author of the pamphlet became bankrupt, and the brothers held an acceptance of his which had been indorsed to them by the drawer, who had also become bankrupt. The wantonly libelled men had thus become creditors of the libeller! They now had it in their power to make him repent of his audacity. He could not obtain his certificate without their signature, and without it he could not enter into business again. He had obtained the number of signatures required by the bankrupt-laws except one. It seemed folly to hope that the firm of "brothers" would supply the deficiency. What, they—who had cruelly been made the laughing-stocks of the public—forget the wrong, and favor the wrong-doer! He despaired: but the claims of a wife and children forced him at last to make the application. Humbled by misery he presented himself at the counting room of the wronged. W. was there alone, and his first words to the delinquent were "Shut the door, sir!" sternly uttered. The door was shut, and the libeller stood trembling before the libelled. He told his tale, and produced his certificate, which was instantly clutched by the injured merchant. "You wrote a pamphlet against us once!" exclaimed W. The supplicant expected to see his parchment thrown into the fire: but this was not its destination. W. took a pen, and writing something upon the document, handed it back to the bankrupt. He—poor wretch!—expected to see there rogue, scoundrel, libeller, inscribed; but there was in fair round characters, the signature of the firm! "We make it a rule," said W., "never to refuse signing the certificate of an honest tradesman, and we have never heard you was any thing else." The tears started into the poor man's eyes. "Ah!" said W., "my saying was true. I said you would live to repent writing that pamphlet. I did not mean it as a threat: I only meant that some day you would know us better, and would repent you had tried to injure us. I see you repent of it now." "I do, I do," said the grateful man. "Well, well, my dear fellow," said W., "you know us now. How do you get on? What are you going to do?" The poor man stated that he had friends who could assist him when his certificate was obtained. "But how are you off in the meantime?" And the answer was, that having given up every farthing to his creditors, he had been compelled to stint his family of even common necessities, that he might be enabled to pay the cost of his certificate. "My dear fellow," said W., "this will not do—your family must not suffer.—Be kind enough to take this ten-pound note to your wife from me. There, there my dear fellow—nay, don't cry—it will be all well with you yet. Keep up your spirits, set to work like a man, and you will raise your head amongst us yet." The overpowered man endeavored in vain to express his thanks—the swelling in his throat forbade words; he put his handkerchief to his face, and went out of the door crying like a child.

From the Democratic Review.  
OLD IRONSIDES ON A LEE SHORE.  
BY AN EYE WITNESS.

It was at the close of a stormy day in the year 1835, when the gallant frigate Constitution, under the command of Captain Elliot, having on board the late Edward Livingston, late minister at the Court of France, and his family, and manned by nearly five hundred souls, drew near to the chops of the English Channel. For four days she had been beating down from Plymouth, and on the fifth, at evening, she made her last tack from the French coast.

The watch was set at eight, P. M. The Captain came on deck soon after, and having ascertained the bearing of Scilly, gave orders to keep the ship 'full and bye,' remarking at the same time to the officer of the deck, that he might make the light on the lee beam, but, he stated, he thought it more than probable that he would pass it without seeing it. He then 'turned in,' as did most of the idlers, and the starboard watch.

At a quarter past nine, P. M., the ship headed west by compass, when the call of "Light O!" was heard from the foretop-sail-yard.

"Where away?" asked the officer of the deck.

"Three points on the lee bow," replied the look-out-man; which the unprofessional reader will readily understand to mean very nearly straight ahead. At this moment the captain appeared and took the trumpet.

"Call all hands," was his immediate order.

"All hands!" whistled the boatswain, with the long, shrill summons familiar to the ears of all who have ever been on board of a man-of-war.

"All hands!" screamed the boatswain's mates; and ere the last echo died away, all but the sick were upon deck.

The ship was staggering through a heavy swell from the Bay of Biscay; the gale, which had been blowing several days, had increased to a severity that was not to be made light of. The breakers, where Sir Cloudesley Shovel and his fleet were destroyed in the days of Queen Anne, sang their song of death before, and the Dead-Man's Ledge replied in hoarser notes behind us. To go ahead seemed to be death, and to attempt to go about was sure destruction.

The first thing that caught the eye of the Captain was the furling mainsail, which he had ordered to be carried throughout the evening—the hauling up of which, contrary to the last order that he had given on leaving the deck, had caused the ship to fall off to leeward two points, and had thus led her into a position on a 'lee shore,' upon which a strong gale was blowing her, in which the chance of safety appeared to the stoutest nerves almost hopeless. That sole chance consisted in standing on, to carry us through the breakers of Scilly, or by a close graze along their outer ledge. Was this destined to be the end of the gallant old ship, consecrated by so many a prayer and blessing from the heart of a nation?

"Why is the mainsail up, when I ordered it set?" cried the Captain in a tremendous voice.

"Finding that she pitched her bows under, I took it in, under your general order, sir, that the officer of the deck should carry sail according to his discretion," replied the Lieutenant in command.

"Heave the log," was the prompt command to the master's mate. The log was thrown.

"How fast does she go?"

"Five knots and a half, sir."

"Board the main tack, sir."

"She will not bear it," said the officer of the deck.

To be continued.

## AUCTION.

On Monday next, June 29th, at 9 1-2 o'clock, A. M., at the store of Peirce & Brewer, will be sold a variety of articles, such as Gingham, Prints, Muslins, Flannel, Thread, Stationery, Brushes, assorted Hingham Boxes, Covered Buckets, Tubs, Axes, &c. &c. Terms made known at time of sale.

FRANCIS JOHNSON, Auctioneer.

## WANTED.

Six good Mules,  
Enquire of LADD & Co.  
June, 6. tf.

## NOTICE.

United States Consulate,  
Sandwich Islands May 25, 1840.

All persons indebted to the estate of Henry Thompson, mariner, deceased, are requested to make immediate payment: and those having claims upon said estate to present them for settlement at this Consulate.

P. A. BRINSMADE,  
U. S. Consul.